

ABSTRACT

A phone number only messaging experience is provided in an Inter-Carrier Messaging System service. Subscriber to subscriber digital message packets are routed between carrier's networks using an

5 Inter-Carrier messaging module with appropriate MIN/carrier/carrier routing look-up capabilities. Digital message packets (e.g., short messages, email, digital messages in general, etc.) may be sent to a subscriber in another carrier's network addressed only with a phone number. If the recipient is outside of the sender's carrier network, the

10 Inter-Carrier messaging module of the Inter-Carrier service provider (ICSP) determines the appropriate carrier for the recipient, appends the appropriate syntax to the digital message packet to allow internet protocol (IP) or other standardized communication techniques between message service centers of the two carriers, and routes the digital message packet

15 to the destination carrier. The recipient in the other carrier's network may reply back to the ICSP's sender using only the subscriber's directory number.